

## Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 042875 TOSEC 040198

46

ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY NEA:ALATHERTON, JR./HLK  
APPROVED BY NEA - ALFRED L. ATHERTON, JR.  
S/S-O:LRMACFARLANE  
S/S - CABORG

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO USDEL SECRETARY IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 042875 TOSEC 040198

EXDIS FOR SECRETARY FROM ATHERTON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, AG, MO, US

SUBJECT: ACTION MEMORANDUM: MESSAGE TO SELECTED GOVERNMENTS ABOUT ATHERTON TRIP TO NORTH AFRICA (S/S- 7603686 )

1. TO AVOID MISINTERPRETATION OF MY NORTH AFRICA TRIP, AND AS A COURTESY SO THAT THEY WILL NOT FIRST READ ABOUT IT IN THE PRESS, I SUGGEST WE INFORM CERTAIN GOVERNMENTS WHICH HAVE APPROACHED US ON THE SAHARA QUESTION OR WHICH WE KNOW HAVE BEEN TAKING AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN THE PROBLEM. SPECIFICALLY, I SUGGEST A MESSAGE TO CAIRO, JIDDA, TEHRAN, TEL AVIV, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, PARIS, TUNIS, NOUAKCHOTT AND LONDON. IF YOU AGREE, I WOULD SUGGEST THE MESSAGE BE SENT ON TUESDAY, SO THAT ADDRESSEE GOVERNMENTS COULD BE INFORMED PRIOR TO MY ARRIVAL IN MOROCCO ON WEDNESDAY WHICH IN ALL PROBABILITY WILL GENERATE SOME PUBLICITY. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED MESSAGE FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

2. BEGIN MESSAGE:

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ACTION: CAIRO, JIDDA, TEHRAN, AMMAN, DAMASCUS, NOUAKCHOTT,

TUNIS, LONDON, PARIS, TEL AVIV

INFO: ALGIERS, RABAT, USUN NEW YOR, TRIPOLI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.), MO, AG

SUBJECT: ATHERTON VISIT TO MOROCCO AND ALGERIA

ACTION ADDRESSEES SHOULD AT THEIR DISCRETION AND AT LEVEL THEY CONSIDER APPROPRIATE CONVEY FOLLOWING INFORMATION TO HOST GOVERNMENTS.

UNDER SECRETARY FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ROBINSON WILL BE VISITING ALGIERS FOR A LONG-SCHEDULED DISCUSSION OF BILATERAL ECONOMIC MATTERS THIS COMING WEEKEND. WE HAVE HAD INDICATIONS THAT ALGERIANS WILL WANT TO DISCUSS OTHER ASPECTS OF SITUATION IN AREA, INCLUDING SAHARA QUESTION. SECRETARY KISSINGER HAS THEREFORE ASKED NEA ASSISTANT SECRETARY ATHERTON TO BE IN ALGERIA DURING ROBINSON'S VISIT AND ALSO TO VISIT RABAT. HE WILL HAVE GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON MATTERS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, AMONG WHICH WE EXPECT THAT SAHARA QUESTION WILL ARISE. INSOFAR AS HIS DISCUSSIONS DEAL WITH SAHARA QUESTION, ATHERTON VISIT DOES NOT REPEAT NOT INDICATE ANY INTENTION ON PART OF USG TO UNDERTAKE MEDIATORY ROLE; HIS DISCUSSIONS AS THEY RELATE TO SAHARA QUESTION WILL BE CONCERNED WITH ITS EFFECT ON BILATERAL U.S.-ALGERIAN AND U.S.-MOROCCAN RELATIONS. OUR POSITION REMAINS THAT WE BELIEVE DIFFERENCES OVER SAHARA ISSUE SHOULD BE WORKED OUT THROUGH NEGOTIATIONS IN REGIONAL CONTEXT WITH WHATEVER ASSISTANCE CONCERNED REGIONAL COUNTRIES AND UN CAN PROVIDE AND THAT ALL CONCERNED SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID ANY ACTIONS WHICH WOULD TEND INTERNATIONALIZE THE PROBLEM.

FOR CAIRO, DAMASCUS, JIDDA: IN VIEW OF YOUR HOST GOVERNMENT'S RECENT EFFORTS TO HELP RESOLVE PROBLEM THROUGH SENDING DELEGATION TO NORTH AFRICAN COUNTRIES, WE WOULD WELCOME FOR OUR BACKGROUND ANY VIEWS THEY WISH TO  
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CONVEY TO US ABOUT THE SAHARA PROBLEM AND THEIR EFFORTS TO PLAY A HELPFUL ROLE.

END MESSAGE.

APPROVE-- -- DISAPPROVE-- --

DRAFTED NEA-ALATHERTON;CLEARANCES: S/S - CABORG;  
S/S-O: LMACFARLANE

EAGLEBURGER

SECRET

NNN

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